

WEST VIRGINIA

2021



AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY HALL OF FAME

MARK L. DOUBLE

Mark L. Double earned a B.S. in Biology from WVU in 1974 and completed his M.S. in Microbiology in 1977. He began his career as a Research Assistant and Chemical Hygiene Officer at WVU.

With a career spanning 41 years at the WVU Division of Plant and Soil Sciences and 60 publications to his credit, he is regarded as a meticulous researcher who has contributed significantly to the knowledge of Chestnut Blight and Oak Wilt.



He served as Secretary of a USDA multistate Chestnut project from 1982-2018 and produced proceedings of their gatherings. The project itself won three national awards of excellence in 1997, 2008 and 2012.

He routinely gives talks to clubs and civic organizations throughout the state, and has given presentations at scientific meetings in Germany, France, Italy and Hungary. He has organized volunteers and overseen the distribution and planting of chestnut seedlings through the state as a lasting legacy. He has injected elm trees at the historic Glenwood Estate in Charleston against Dutch Elm Disease every three years since 1982.

He is President of the West Virginia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) and started the chapter newsletter. He was the keynote speaker at TACF's 35th anniversary annual meeting in 2019 and was the recipient of the group's Outstanding Service Award in 1991. He has been active in the Rowlesburg Chestnut Festival, serving as chair of its science committee and as "Mr. Chestnut."